

TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY, AND SYSTEM PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program provides funding for a comprehensive initiative including planning grants, implementation grants, and research to investigate and address the relationships among transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices and identify private sector-based initiatives to improve those relationships.

States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and tribal governments are eligible for TCSP Program discretionary grants to plan and implement strategies which improve the efficiency of the transportation system, reduce environmental impacts of transportation, reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments, ensure efficient access to jobs, services and centers of trade, and examine development patterns and identify strategies to encourage private sector development patterns which achieve these goals.

Authorized funding for the TCSP Program is \$25 million in FY 2005 and \$61.25 million per year for FY 2006 through 2009. These funds are subject to the obligation limitation. The Federal share payable on account of any TCSP project or activity shall be 80% or subject to the sliding scale rate [23 USC 120(b)].

Additional information on the TCSP Program can be found at the following links:

- <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/index.html>
- http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/pi_tcsp.htm
- <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/sec1117.htm>
- <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/projects.html>

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

SAFETEA-LU Section: 1117.

FUNDING:

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Authorization	\$25M	\$61.25M	\$61.25M	\$61.25M	\$61.25M

Funded by contract authority; funds are not transferable. Funds are subject to the overall Federal-aid highway obligation limitation. [1117, 1102]

Funds are to be allocated by the Secretary to States, metropolitan planning organizations, local and tribal governments, ensuring an equitable distribution to a diversity of populations and geographic regions.

FEDERAL SHARE:

The Federal share payable on account of any project or activity carried out under 23 USC 120(b) shall be 80% or subject to the sliding scale rate.

OBLIGATION LIMITATION:

The TCSP funds are subject to obligation limitation; however, 100 percent obligation authority is provided with the allocation of funds for the selected projects. The obligation limitation reduces the available funding for the program under the provisions of SAFETEA-LU section 1117 discussed above.

ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS:

Funds may be used to carry out eligible projects to integrate transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices that:

1. Improve the efficiency of the transportation system of the United States.
2. Reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment.
3. Reduce the need for costly future investments in public infrastructure.
4. Provide efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade.
5. Examine community development patterns and identify strategies to encourage private sector development.

Eligibility is broadly defined as a project eligible for assistance under Title 23 or Chapter 53 of Title 49, or any other activity the Secretary determines to be appropriate to implement transit-oriented development plans, traffic calming measures, or other coordinated TCSP practices.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:

The Secretary of Transportation will make grants for projects from States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and tribal governments, with priority consideration given to projects that:

- Have instituted coordinated preservation or development plans that promote cost-effective investment and private sector strategies,
- Have instituted other TCSP policies such as those addressing high-growth areas, urban growth boundaries, “green corridors” programs that provide access to major highway corridors for controlled growth areas,
- Address environmental mitigation, and
- Encourage private sector involvement.

FHWA has not established regulatory criteria for the selection of TCSP projects; however, FHWA notes that the following criteria are also considered in the evaluation of candidates for this program:

- Expeditionary completion of project - Consideration is given to requests that will expedite the completion of a viable project. This is a project’s ability to be expeditiously completed within the limited funding amounts available.
- State priorities - For States that submit more than one project, consideration is given to the individual State’s priorities.
- Leveraging of private or other public funding - Because the annual requests for funding far exceed the available TCSP funds, commitment of other funding sources to complement the requested TCSP funding is an important factor.
- Amount of TCSP funding - The requested amount of funding is a consideration. Realizing the historically high demand of funding under this program, modest sized requests for funding (generally less than \$1 million) to allow more States to receive funding under this program are given added consideration. Therefore, two independent projects totaling less than \$2 million might be more likely to be selected than one large project.

- National geographic distribution of funding within the TCSP Program - Consideration is given to selecting projects over time among all the States competing for funding.
- Congressional direction or guidance - Often Congress specifies in the legislative process that funding be designated for specific projects. This congressional intent is honored provided that the designated projects meet the statutory eligibility criteria for the program.

PROJECTS DESIGNATED BY CONGRESS:

Since FY 2000, Congress has been fully designating all of our available TCSP funding for specific projects that they list in the Statement of Managers in the conference report that accompanies the annual transportation appropriations act. In addition, Congress has established a provision in the annual transportation appropriations act that declares these listed projects eligible for TCSP funding “notwithstanding any other provision of law.” Therefore, the projects designated by Congress in the Statement of Managers are selected for TCSP funding provided the proposed work in the application submitted by the State falls within the description of the designated project, as listed in the Statement of Managers.

SOLICITATION PROCEDURE:

- **Projects Not Designated by Congress**

Prior to FY 2000, usually around January of each year, a memorandum was sent from the FHWA Headquarters Office of Planning to the FHWA division offices requesting the submission of candidate projects by States for the following fiscal year’s funding. This solicitation was also posted on FHWA’s website at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/projects.html>. The FHWA division offices provide this solicitation request to the State transportation departments, who are the agencies that submit the applications for this program. The State transportation department coordinates with local agencies within their State to develop viable candidate projects and submits the candidate applications to the FHWA division office. After the division office has reviewed the submission and ensured that the submission and all applications meet the TCSP Program requirements, they send the applications to the Office of Planning in Headquarters. Candidate projects are due in FHWA Headquarters usually in July. The specific timetable for the solicitation process for any particular fiscal year is provided in the solicitation memorandum.

The candidate project applications are reviewed and evaluated by the Office of Planning, and an allocation plan is prepared for presentation of the candidate projects to the Office of the Federal Highway Administrator, where the final selection of projects for funding is made. The announcement of the selected projects and the allocation of funds are usually accomplished by the middle of November.

- **Projects Designated by Congress**

When Congress fully designates all of our available TCSP funding for specific projects that they list in the Statement of Managers in the conference report that accompanies the annual transportation appropriations act, FHWA does not solicit for applications from the State transportation departments until after passage of the annual appropriations act. At that time, we know the extent of the Congressional designation of funds, and will solicit applications only for those designated projects.

Because it is often October or November before the annual appropriations act is passed, the solicitation for applications from the State transportation departments may not be issued until November or even December. With applications due a month or two after that, it may well be March or April before awards are actually announced and funds available for allocation.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- **Projects Not Designated by Congress**

Only State transportation departments may submit applications for funding under this program. The following information must be included to properly evaluate the candidate projects. The appropriate division office must submit the applications by electronic mail in Microsoft Word format. Those applications that do not include these items are considered incomplete and will not be considered in the evaluation selection process.

1. **State** in which the project is located.
2. **County** in which the project is located.
3. **U.S. Congressional District No.(s)** in which the project is located. This is the U.S. Congressional District, not the State district.
4. **U.S. Congressional District Member's Name(s)**. This is the U.S. Congressional District representative, not the State legislature.
5. **Project Title** – This should be a very short project description that readily identifies the project, or is commonly used to describe the facility or project.
6. **Project Location** – Describe the specific location of the project, including route number and termini, if applicable. Also include appropriate local jurisdiction in which the project is located.
7. **Project Abstract** – Describe project work that is to be completed under this particular request, and whether this is a complete project or part of a larger project. (Maximum: 4 Sentences)
8. **Project Narrative** – This should include a list of the needs for the project and how each of those needs will be addressed by completion of the project. Other transportation benefits that will result from completion of the project, such as improved public safety, economic development, community enhancement, etc., should be described. (Maximum: 2 Pages)
9. **Amount of Federal TCSP Funds Requested** – Indicate the total cost of the proposed work along with the amount of TCSP funds being requested (the maximum Federal share for this program is 80 percent). The State may request partial funding (less than the 80 percent maximum), committing a larger portion of State or local funds. If the State is willing to accept partial funding of the request, that should be indicated. Partial funding along with the commitment of other funds will be used to determine leveraging of funds and allow funding to more projects since the requests far exceed the funding available.
10. **Commitment of Other Funds** – Indicate the amounts and sources of any private or other public funding being provided as part of this project. Only indicate those amounts of funding that are firm and documented commitments from the entity controlling the funds.
11. **Previous TCSP Funding** – Indicate the amount and Federal fiscal year of any previous TCSP funds received for this project
12. **Project Administration** – Indicate whether the project is being administered by the State transportation agency, a county or other local jurisdiction, or another Federal

agency. This information is needed to determine to whom to allocate the funds if the project is selected for funding.

13. **Project Schedule** – The anticipated project schedule (assuming the requested TCSP funding is provided) is required. The schedule should show how the work will be commenced in the fiscal year for which the funds are being requested, and the anticipated completion date of the work. Applications should only be submitted for projects that are ready to advance if the funding request is met.

If the State desires to submit additional information, such as maps, pictures, copies of support letters etc., those items must be submitted by hard copy to the FHWA division office, who will submit them to the Office of Planning. This additional information should be identified by the State and Project Title that matches items 1 and 5 of the electronic application. These additional items are not required and are not to be sent electronically. Any support letters should be addressed and sent to the Federal Highway Administrator, who is the official ultimately responsible for selecting projects for funding.

- **Projects Designated by Congress**

Only State transportation departments may submit applications for funding under this program. The application for each project must include the following information so that a proper evaluation may be made of all candidate projects. Those applications that do not include these items are incomplete and will not be considered in the evaluation and selection process. The application for each project must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format.

1. **State** in which the project is located.
2. **County** in which the project is located.
3. **U.S. Congressional District No.(s)** in which the project is located. This is the U.S. Congressional District, not the State district.
4. **U.S. Congressional District Member's Name(s).** This is the U.S. Congressional District representative, not the State legislature.
5. **Project Designation (Title)** – This should be a very short project description that readily identifies the project, or is commonly used to describe the facility or project.
6. **Project Location** – Describe the specific location of the project, including route number and termini, if applicable. Also include appropriate local jurisdiction in which the project is located.
7. **Project Abstract** – Describe project work that is to be completed under this particular request, and whether this is a complete project or part of a larger project. (Maximum: 4 Sentences)
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determine leveraging of funds and allow funding to more projects since the requests far exceed the funding available.

10. **Project Administration** – Indicate whether the project is being administered by the State transportation agency, a county or other local jurisdiction, or another Federal agency. This information is needed to determine to whom to allocate the funds if the project is selected for funding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS / ALLOCATION OF FUNDS:

After the applications are received and projects are selected for funding, it is required that Congress be notified before the funds are allocated to the States. When this Congressional notification process is completed, the Office of Planning will issue an announcement by email to all FHWA division offices, announcing the TCSP projects that will be funded and the amount of funding for each project.

At that time, States may request that funds be allocated for any projects for which the funds are ready to be obligated. The State transportation agency shall send an email to the FHWA division office indicating the project, the amount requested for allocation, and the date by which the funds will be obligated. The Office of Planning will issue the allocation memorandum within a few days of receiving the allocation request from the division office.

STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Coordinate with State, metropolitan planning organizations, local, tribal, and Federal agencies within the State to develop project applications.
2. Ensure that the applications are completed for candidate projects in accordance with the submission requirements outlined above.
3. If required, establish priorities if submitting more than one project.
4. Submit the applications electronically to the local FHWA division office on time so that the submission deadline can be met.
5. Submit request to FHWA division office for allocation of funds, after awards are announced, and when project funds are ready to be obligated.

***** PROCEDURES FOR FY 2007 *****

For FY 2007, it appears that Congress may pass a continuing resolution at FY 2006 funding levels through the end of FY 2007, without any specific designation of the funds. Therefore, we are anticipating an open competition for these FY 2007 TCSP funds for the first time since FY 2000. The procedures for “Projects Not Designated by Congress” outlined above shall be used. If the situation changes and Congress does designate our funding, the procedures will be adjusted accordingly.